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contents



ROB HAVENS '88

FEATURES

16 Q&A WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

We got to hear from the players and Coach Blair before the season.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

18 Q&A WITH BUZZ WILLIAMS

The new ball coach gives his thoughts on team entering this season.

20 FOOTBALL REWIND

Pictures and recaps of the first eight games.

29 TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS

AI spotlights Powerlifting and Women's Water Polo Clubs.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

IN EVERY ISSUE

06 Publisher's Note

08 Snapshots

13 Scoreboard

30 The 12th Man

On the Cover: Freshman running back Isaiah Spiller shows off his skills on the gridiron.
Photo by Rob Havens '88



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Howdy Ags!

This football season is flying by and the Aggies have some momentum as we move into November. The team swept the Mississippi schools for the first time since 2013 and now look to finish the season strong with another potential matchup against No. 1. The Tigers of LSU defeated Alabama and are currently ranked No. 1 in the CFP Playoff rankings. If they can avoid a major upset against Arkansas, the Aggies would face the number one team in the polls for a record third time this year.

The young players that Jimbo recruited have seen lots of playing time and been instrumental in the success of this year's team. With a top ten recruiting class looking to sign and an easier schedule next year (if you can call an SEC West schedule easy), the Aggies could make a possible run at the CFP playoffs in 2020.

Kellen Mond has been a steady force throughout the season and drawn praise from Coach Fisher for his ability to lead this team. Isaiah Spiller has grown up fast and helped the Aggies after the loss of Jashaun Corbin.

A newcomer to the Aggie team, Ainiias Smith, has become a spark plug at receiver and as our punt and kick returner. Jalen Wydermyer has come in and become one of Kellen Mond's most productive targets at tight end.

Justin Madubuike has been an MVP for our defense, showing up every game and making big plays.

I'm anxious to see how we finish this year with some tough opponents left to face.

On a personal note, former Aggie deep snapper and my oldest son Dan Havens got engaged on October 19th! We are so happy for him and anxious to add a daughter to our family! Welcome, Meghan to our family!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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... dual threat

Kellen Mond stiff-arms a Texas State defender in the first game of the season. Through eight games, Mond is second on the team in rushing with 464 yards. He has also thrown for over 2,000 yards, contributing a total of 21 touchdowns for the team. He has taken big hits and gotten up every time! Under the guidance of Jimbo Fisher, he has developed into one of the best quarterbacks in the SEC.

Photo by Rob Havens '88







... the spirit burns bright

The Yell Leaders pause for a moment as the sun sets before an Aggie Soccer game at Ellis Field. Jacob Huffman '21, Kenny Cantrell '20, Karsten Lowe '20, Reid Williams '20, and Keller Cox '21 might be the hardest workers on campus. They somehow juggle schoolwork and a full slate of Aggie sporting events, along with numerous events on and off campus as ambassadors of Texas A&M. They have the huge responsibility of introducing and carrying on all the great traditions at A&M to a new generation of Aggies.

Photo by Rob Havens '88



... goaaaaallll

Ally Watt jumps into the arms of her teammate Addie McCain after scoring a goal in a 4-0 win over Abilene Christian. Watt leads the team in goals and is one of the best players in the country. On October 29th, she earned National Player of the Week Honors after scoring a golden goal against Vanderbilt with 45 seconds remaining in the second overtime period. She followed up that performance by scoring four goals in a victory over Missouri, setting a new Texas A&M single-game record.

Photo by Rob Havens '88



[VOLLEYBALL] As of press time, the team is on a five-game win streak and sitting at 16-5. They have beaten #15 Kentucky on the road and #24 Missouri at home. Senior outside hitter Hollan Hans leads the team in kills and is once again one of the best players on the court. Under second-year head coach "Bird" Kuhn, this team is gaining confidence with each match and are currently 8-3 in the SEC.

[CROSS COUNTRY] The men and women both opened their season in spectacular fashion earning team victories at the Texas A&M Invitational. Kelsie Warren and Ashley Driscoll finished first and second in the women's 5,000-meter race. Wes McPhail led the Aggie men placing third in the 8,000-meter race. At the SEC Championships, the men placed fifth while the women finished in ninth. Jon Bishop and Kelsie Warren led their Aggie teams with the best finishes.



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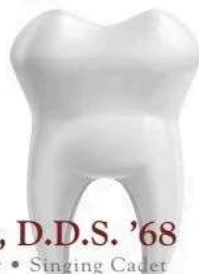
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scoreboard



[EQUESTRIAN] Texas A&M moved up to No. 2 in the nation after upsetting Georgia to open up conference play. Grace Boston was named Most Outstanding Player (MOP) with a 91-86 victory. In the reining event, Lisa Bricker earned MOP. Caroline Dance earned Most Outstanding Player in flat with a 85-76 victory. The Aggies also beat #7 TCU to begin the season.

[SWIMMING & DIVING] Both of the men's and women's swimming and diving team opened the fall portion of their season with a win over Ohio State and a loss to Texas. The men upset the #5 Buckeyes in an event that came down to the final race. Shaine Casas and Benjamin Walker placed first in every event they participated in. Adam Koster had a win in the 100 Free, in addition to his two relay victories. For the women's team they beat #14 Ohio State in dominating fashion. Junior diver Charlye Campbell took first place in the 3-meter and 1-meter dives. Karling Hemstreet took first in the 200 free and Anna Belousova won the 200 back, the 100 and 200 breast. Raena Eldridge earned first in the 50 free and 100 free. Emma Carlton had double victories in the 100 back and 100 butterfly.

[SOCCER] The Aggies went 13-3-3 in the regular season and are looking for some post-season championships. One of the highlight victories during the fall was a 3-2 win at #13 Santa Clara. Jimena Lopez and Ally Watt garnered SEC Midfielder of the Year and SEC Forward of the Year respectively as the two talented players led this team. This team has the talent and depth to make waves in the post-season.



AGGIE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

PREVIEW

— QUOTES —



N'DEA

JONES

This off-season I worked a lot on being more consistent with my shot and expanding out to the three-point line. I worked on some ball handling and my passing to try and be a better passer in the paint into my guards. So I worked on more outside of the paint. My personal goals are to do better than I did last year on the rebounding end. Hopefully I'll rebound a lot more and be more of a scoring option and be more aggressive when I get the ball.

CHENNEDY

CARTER

That's what I always like to tell my teammates, let's not just get there, guys. When you just get somewhere, that's not good enough for me — just getting to the Sweet 16, I've already been there. I want to go further, and my goal this year is to win a national championship. I want to win. I want to be on the stage to be recognized for my capabilities, and I want my teammates to be recognized as well for their capabilities too.

KAYLA

WELLS

In the off-season I worked on being more versatile. I know I'm a taller guard, so I'll be able to play the four a lot this year. So I really worked on some of my post moves. I had workouts with Coach Starkey this year and I'm really trying to work on posting up smaller guards. Going against a four player I know that I will have an advantage, so if I can get stronger, I can find some post moves and I'll be fine.

CIERA

JOHNSON

During the offseason I worked on my hook shot, I'm just trying to get that better — both my right and my left hand. Also trying to get in better shape than I was last year at this point during the season. My goal is for us to go out and compete every day, compete every day in practice. Get better every practice and at the end of the day those results will yield themselves. As long as we, as a team, are doing what we are supposed to do, and we are executing, doing what the coaches are asking us to do, and working hard — that's all I can ask for us to do.

ANNA

DREIMANE

My personal goals this year: firstly I want to gain confidence, but obviously confidence comes from work. I feel like just from getting out there that will come. I do have a lot of goals. The main one is just to help the team. Be a good teammate, control the things I can control everyday, like my attitude, and effort. And I know if I do the best in all of that, the rest is gonna come.

CHEAH

RAEL-WHITSITT

I actually have a lot of personal expectations for myself this season because last year didn't go the way I wanted it to. I expect myself to go hard every single second of every single play of every single moment. I expect myself to have the drive that I'm usually known to have. I don't want it to fade away. I want to be there, be strong, be present.

I want to hustle like I said. I care about the extra things that don't necessarily show up on the stat sheet. That's what I care about.

AALIYAH

WILSON

(hitting the floor again after her year ending injury) The confidence part [in my knee] is still an ongoing thing just knowing what happened and just finding the strength within my leg and just within myself, it's been a big part of it but each day in practice the coaches have done a good job of letting me kind of find myself. Of course, I'm gonna make mistakes or do something silly or goofy here, but they know it's all a part of me finding myself again. I'm just trying to get back in the flow of things, and just being out there again has helped tremendously.

AAHLIYAH

JACKSON

(on team chemistry) This summer I think we bonded tremendously. Going to the lake, just doing different things helped build our bond stronger. I think that's kind of helped as we transitioned into preseason. I think that we are moving pretty fast because we have a veteran team. It's been pretty good.

SHAMBRIA

WASHINGTON

(comparing last season to this one) We want more, we are a little more focused. We saw what we were capable of last year and we want more. We are more experienced now, which helps. I just



want to lead the best that I can every day. Get better every day, make my teammates around me better every day, stay together as a team, be a leader. Be here to do whatever my teammates need me to do.

JASMINE

WILLIAMS

Having everybody back this year is an amazing thing just because the first day of practice, we don't have to go through the normal drills. We are in midseason form. I feel like we are learning more, getting more things done, and hopefully that pays dividends during the games. We have high expectations for ourselves. We tend not to pay attention to rankings and polls internally. We know that as long as we do what we need to do, everything is going to work out.

MCKINZIE

GREEN

(On decision to come to A&M) Just the family atmosphere drew me. Having the opportunity to play for Coach Blair was really exciting. I love my teammates and the rest of the coaching staff. They were very transparent during my recruiting process, so it was really fun. My expectations for this season are really high. I just want to get better every day and do what Coach Blair needs me to do and be an extension of him on the court.



JORDAN

NIXON

(On lessons she can get as she sits out due to transfer rule) It's all about learning. So basically with such a veteran team, it's in the details basically. How they approach practices and games. How they hold each other accountable, hold themselves accountable. And then the things they do on the basketball court as far as execution goes. I just try to soak it all in. Like even in the first couple of weeks of practice, I've taken so much from them. I don't know if they know that, but I watch. I watch everything and try to incorporate those things into my repertoire.

COACH

BLAIR

This team is farther along than probably the last three teams we've had through ten practices. We are a little gimpy, with a couple of strained hamstrings and Wilson is coming back — probably about 80% right now. But if we get her to 90%, it's basically where you want an ACL injury back after your first year. The second year is always at 100%.

I think we are playing really well right now. We have a lot of experience and we only have one freshman. We have one transfer that's working her way in. Anna from Colorado State is eligible this year. We have a lot of veterans out there. We are so far ahead, particularly on our offense. I have already put in about 60% of our offense and that's way beyond where we have been through ten practices the last couple of years.



Last year in conference play we might have been the only BCS team that had kids all averaged over 30 minutes a game in conference play. That's too much. Did we wear out at the end? No I just think we faced a better team in Notre Dame and got beat by Notre Dame. And it showed because all those teams that went in the draft. But how do you keep them happy? How do you cut down their minutes? Try to keep kids in nonconference below 28 or 29 minutes. Develop some depth — experienced depth — in case an injury does happen during the year. Where all of the sudden Shambria saved us last year when Wilson went down and she wasn't really doing much until that time. All of the sudden she stepped up. She may be our best leader on the team out there because she's taken it on herself to be the leader on the floor. Whether she knows that, she's not probably going to score more than the other four out there or the two coming off the bench. But leadership can mean something. So I'm going to rotate them in early.

Sometimes you say "how can you do that when you're playing the Duke's of the world and all of the people we play in non conference." It will work itself out. And that's all I can do. Play is earned during practice time. We have video of every practice. We have stats of every practice. And then we do the individual workouts. I listen to their position coaches — who's improving, who's staying the same and who's sliding down a little. I've got to trust my coaches to give me that information.

BUZZ

WILLIAMS

Q&A



What did the trip to Costa Rica do for the chemistry of this team?

I don't know if it built any chemistry. But I do think when you are able to do that, the NCAA allows different things in preparation for the trip. You're allowed ten practice days. It's one of the least regulated rules in the rulebook. They say ten practice days, and you can do whatever you want on those days. During the season, even today, you're restricted on how much time you can work. So when you go on those trips, you can utilize those days however you want, and we kind of spread those days out throughout the summer. Kind of an A-Z and we didn't accomplish all of that, but tried to go A-B-C-D in regards to all the things we want to do in every way. Get a sense of what we can do offensively. Get a sense of what we can do defensively. A sense of what we would be about on special teams, how we watch tape, how we take notes. A little bit of all of that, not much depth to any of it. But that was at least an appetizer of what we will do over the next six months.

How surprised were you – in either a good way or a bad way – when you got here and began evaluating the guys you would have coming back from last year.

Yeah there's five guys returning from last year's team. Most of those guys I'd say you would know. Some of those guys are heavy minute guys. That's the one thing I would say to their credit, all of them, because that's how they have been raised. That's my opinion. They've been great, relative to their character and trying to be respectful in what we want to do. And that's not to be critical to what was done, just different. And I think those guys have been really good. Some of them are a little ahead of others in regards to picking it up, and then being able to take it to the floor. Some of them are starting to figure that out; they're just a little behind. Those five guys have been great thus far, relative to their attitude and their effort.

How does that compare to Virginia Tech when you got there, with guys that were held over?

Good question. I think we had eight returning guys when we got there. Every situation is different. When you take a job, every situation is different relative to your returning players and relative to the

guys you need to sign. That may be one thing that's not spoken to enough. When you take a job in April, the pool of players to choose from is very small. You don't want to make short term decisions on trying to win a game because you're motivated by the media picking you 12th. I think that's short-sided. You want to try and make sustainable decisions as best you can, relative to the pool of players that are left. Any coach would say in any sport, I think, that you're only as good as your returning players. So whether that's five or eight or whatever. I would say a lot of those poll votes were based on who has the most returning players.

Do you know who your leaders are right now?

I say this with zero arrogance, I am. Because everything we are doing is brand new. Today will be our tenth practice, and so a lot of what we will do today is the first time we bring officials in. So this will be the first time we have officially played and there are officials. I think that will be a good rep, but it's our first rep. They had officials in Costa Rica, but they were just next-door neighbors to the guys we were playing. So it wasn't really officials. Everything is new. So I think when it's something we did the day before that we are gaining some traction. But I don't know that in mid October we can say this guy is a leader. Because in order to be a leader, you have to have followers. And I don't know that they necessarily know where to lead. Not that they don't want to lead, they're just not exactly sure where we are going.

A lot was said about Savion Flagg trying to lead down the stretch, is he a guy trying to do that?

I can't speak on what he did last year. I do think in time he can be a good player. He's gonna have to learn to be consistently good. That's what real players do in any sport – ones that can do it day after day after day. Shooting a lot of balls in games that don't necessarily matter towards winning or losing. I don't think that that's what defines a good player. But I think he's been more than coachable, and I think that he's getting to a point that he knows that it's something we are convicted by. He's becoming convicted by it. But I think it's way too early, I don't think it will happen anytime this month or before Christmas relative to leader,

but their character is great and they're trying. That's a great start.

With the makeup of this roster do you see this team being more positionless out there? Or will you lean on some of the new faces to man up the post game?

Yeah Nebo hasn't practiced. So it's hard to say what he will be able to do or if he will ever be able to play. He hasn't been a part of anything we have done in a long time. I would say he has missed the last 27 workdays, and in a new program that is really hard to overcome, regardless of how old you are. I think the game is going to be positionless. So we are ok with that. But in order to be positionless that means you have to be able to guard multiple positions. It sounds cool offensively, where it becomes a bind is defensively. Can your guard multiple positions? And that will kind of determine how we will be able to play – who can you guard? And who can we guard, and then what would our plan be of attack defensively? Who's playing and how can we guard?

Is Nebo out because of injury?

Yeah. I don't know when he will be back. I'm not hiding anything, but I anticipate it's still a while.

Who are some new faces that A&M fans should probably get to know a little bit that you've liked so far?

Hmmm. I like my assistant coaches that are new. (gallery laughs) Does that count? You're talking about players? Quenton Jackson is the only junior college player we signed. It gives him an advantage over the freshmen that we signed because he has some level of experience. He's played, he's practiced, that helps. I think Andre Gordon is in a good groove through nine practices. He's starting to take baby steps, but we are going to need him to play. Cashius McNeilly is one of our better shooters statistically speaking, just from looking at the stats from last year. I didn't watch any tape, but I looked at the numbers. We need as many guys that can make a shot as possible. I think we have some guys that can force help, but if we force help and we are pitching it to guys that can't make a shot, that's not perfect. So we signed several, but I would say "Q" that's Quenton, Andre we call him "Dre". Coaches always want one syllable

names. Then, Cashius is his full name, and we call him "Cash". It's a good name for a shooter if he can make 'em. I would say those are the main ones.

I think the one that will surprise everyone is the one that received the least amount of recognition: Jonathan Aku. Was not here for summer school. Did not go to Costa Rica. Was admitted the Friday afternoon before school started on Monday. So never had an individual this summer. Never had a weight session. And he has been remarkable, considering that. Incredible, beautiful soul as a human being. Wants to be coached. Sometimes I'm not sure that I use the appropriate language with him, I go a little too fast. But he's probably become the most respected freshman I have seen since Joe Jones. Joe was a worker. Joe wasn't scared. Joe could do his job. And so old kids kind of pulled him: "come on man, you doing good, let's go." And they began to kind of protect Joe because they knew they could count on him. And that's what's happening. Our kids don't know that, but that's what's happening with Aku. He could turn into a monster. I don't know what level of monster, but he's gonna play a lot. Partly because of the void that we have, but he's gotten every rep in practice thus far. Nebo has gotten zero. And in time that could wind up being a benefit for all of us. Long term. But he has been manna from heaven in many respects.





FOOTBALL REWIND 2019

GAME 1

**7
41** | **TEXAS STATE
A&M**

The 2019 season began with a bang as the Aggies blew out the Bobcats in front of a capacity crowd of almost 100,000 fans at Kyle Field. Kellen Mond was outstanding, throwing for three touchdowns and running for another as the Aggies lit up the scoreboard with 41 points. The Ags had two hundred-yard rushers in the game as sophomore Jashaun Corbin and true freshman Isaiah Spiller tallied 103 and 106 yards respectively. Corbin was a workhorse for the Aggies, carrying the ball 22 times and scoring one touchdown on the ground and another through the air. Jhamon Ausbon and Quartney Davis led the receiving corps, as each player had six catches apiece and both added touchdown receptions as well. Mike Elko's defense was stellar as they only allowed eight yards of rushing in the game. The secondary intercepted four passes, which was the most interceptions in a game since 2006. Myles Jones collected two of them, while Leon O'Neal and Roney Elam both had one. Seth Small made good on both of his field goal attempts, knocking through a 22 and 26 yarder. Jake Spavital, former A&M offensive coordinator and now the head coach for Texas State, suffered his first loss as a head coach.



GAME 2

10
24

A&M
CLEMSON



Expectations were high as the Aggies took the field against the defending national champs in game two. The offense struggled to get things going on its first two drives, but they finally put together a 16-play drive that ate up 7:33 and put the Aggies in the lead with a 32-yard field goal by Seth Small. Clemson responded by scoring 24 unanswered points, taking control of the game for the second and third quarters. But the Aggies did not give up. They finished the game with a 16-play drive that went 91 yards in 5:43 and resulted in a two-yard touchdown pass from Mond to tight end Jalen Wydermyer. The Aggies struggled to run the ball, as they only accounted for 53 yards on the ground. However, the defense was able to hold Clemson's talented running back Travis Etienne to only 60 yards rushing. Unfortunately, Trevor Lawrence was 24 of 35 for 268 yards and a touchdown. Kellen Mond completed 24 passes for 236 yards. It was a disappointing afternoon for the Aggies, but as Jimbo said after the game, the fact that fans expected the team to win shows how far the program has come in one year.

GAME 3

3
62 | LAMAR
A&M

Not only did Texas A&M suffer a loss at Clemson, but they also lost their number one running back for the season as Jashaun Corbin sustained a hamstring injury. Jimbo always preaches to his players to be prepared to play, and true freshman Isaiah Spiller rose to the occasion by rushing for 116 yards and two touchdowns in the Aggies' 62-3 victory over Lamar. The offense got rolling again and generated 410 yards through the air and another 223 yards on the ground. In just three quarters of work, Kellen Mond dissected the Cardinal's defense with 317 yards passing, including a touchdown pass to Jhamon Ausbon and a touchdown run of his own. Seven different Aggies scored touchdowns during the game, as Coach Fisher was able to get some of our younger players some much-needed experience. True freshman Zach Calzada gave us a peek at the future as he completed four passes for 68 yards and two touchdowns. The defense was stellar as they only allowed Lamar 197 yards of offense and three points. Debione Renfro led the team with five tackles, and Seth Small added two field goals for the Aggies.



GAME 4

28 | AUBURN
20 | A&M



Since joining the SEC, the Aggies have struggled to beat Auburn at Kyle Field. The no. 8 Tigers came to Aggieland with a freshman quarterback facing his first true road test. Unfortunately, Auburn's Bo Nix looked like a seasoned pro as he led his team to a 21-3 lead going into the fourth quarter. The Aggies would not go away and scored 17 points in the fourth quarter, but it was not enough as the Tigers prevailed 28-20. However, there were some bright spots, as true freshman Ainias Smith showed off his talents by collecting a 15-yard pass from Kellen Mond for a touchdown. Quartney Davis has also proved to be one of Mond's most reliable receivers and kept the Ags in the game with a 27-yard touchdown of his own. The defense gave up a quick score early in the game when the Tigers went 57 yards on a trick play to go up 7-0 less than two minutes into the contest. They held the Tigers to 299 total yards but a 12-play drive in the fourth quarter put the game out of reach. The Aggies attempted to get an onside kick after their final touchdown, but Auburn recovered it and ran out the clock.

GAME 5

31
27 | A&M
ARKANSAS

Although the Aggies went into the Arkansas game having beat them seven times in a row, the Hogs always seem to give the Aggies fits. This year the Aggies had to face their former quarterback Nick Starkel. The Aggies came out of the gates fast, jumped on the Hogs to gain a 14-3 lead, and were in complete control of the game. Fisher's young players once again made their presence known, as Ainius Smith and Isaiah Spiller scored touchdowns for the Aggies. Late in the second quarter, Starkel led the Hogs down the field but was intercepted at the goal line by Justin Madubuike. After corralling the ball, Justin galloped to the 18 but was cut down by Starkel who was injured on the play and never returned to the game. The momentum shifted on the next play when Spiller fumbled deep in the Aggies' end of the field, and the Hogs ran it into the end zone to draw within four points: 14-10. The Ags found themselves in a dogfight for the rest of the game, as Ben Hicks resurrected the Arkansas offense and the score went back and forth. Trailing by four points late in the game, the Hogs drove down the field and faced a fourth and five on the Aggie 19. The Aggie defense collapsed on Hicks, and his pass fell incomplete off the finger tips of Buddy Johnson to ensure the victory.



GAME 6

47
28

ALABAMA
A&M



Texas A&M received the kickoff and started with possession on their own 25 yard line. The Aggies went 15 plays going 75 yards eating up 8:03 off the clock and got a one-yard touchdown run from Kellen Mond. It was about the most perfect drive you can have against the most talented team in college football. Unfortunately, Bama is Bama, and they responded with a 73-yard drive of their own followed by another score and another score and before you knew it, it was 24-10. Our guys never quit, and they kept battling. But when the clock ticked out, it was 47-28. Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and his talented band of receivers were too much for our guys to handle, and once they get rolling, they were hard to stop. Special teams' yards given up was a huge difference in the game, as the Tide started at mid-field or better throughout the game. On paper, the Aggies were right there, as Kellen Mond passed for 264 yards and two touchdowns through the air and another on the ground. The Aggies faced the no. 1 team for the second time in the first six games.

GAME 7

24
17 | A&M
OLE MISS

The Aggies traveled to Oxford for game seven in a must-win contest. There are no such things as easy wins in the SEC, and the Aggies knew they would get the Rebels' best shot. The teams traded punches early on, but a huge touchdown catch by Kendrick Rogers right before the half gave the Aggies a 10-7 lead at the break. In the third quarter, the offense barely touched the ball. Buddy Johnson made the play of the game when he scooped up a forced fumble by Blades and scampered 62 yards for a touchdown. It put the Aggies up 17-14 and switched the momentum of the game. Isaiah Spiller finished off a seven-play drive late in the game with a 22-yard touchdown run that put the final nail in the coffin. While the Rebels got a late field goal, a missed onside kick dashed their comeback hopes, and the Ags got the much-needed win on the road. Kellen Mond ran for 100 yards in the game and threw for 172 yards and a touchdown. Tight end Jalen Wydermyer also showed he could be a big piece of the offense as he had 4 catches for 67 yards.



GAME 8

30
49

MISS. STATE
A&M



In game eight, the Aggies played their best four quarters of the year. Nick Fitzgerald had been a thorn in the Aggies' side for the last three years, and the Ags hadn't swept the Mississippi schools since 2013. A&M broke the pattern this year thanks to a few key offensive plays and a solid defense throughout the game. Mond accounted for five touchdowns against the Bulldogs. He threw for three touchdowns and rushed for two more. Jalen Wydermyer caught a 52-yard pass, breaking multiple tackles on his way to the end zone. Jhamon Ausbon scored on a 19-yard pass from Mond, and Kendrick Rogers had a play I wouldn't be surprised to see on a SportsCenter highlight reel, catching a pass, rolling over a defender and fighting his way to pay dirt. The defense was exceptional, causing two fumbles and an interception against the Bulldogs. Devin Morris had his first career interception, stealing the ball away from a Bulldog receiver to give the ball back to the offense. The Aggies were able to get out front and stay there to win the game going away. They hope to take the momentum from the last two wins to finish strong in November against South Carolina, Georgia and a rematch with LSU in Baton Rouge.

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POWERLIFTING

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Powerlifting not only calls for great strength and endurance, but club members also have to be strategic with their lifts in order to win the competition. Texas A&M's Powerlifting Club was started in 1974 and has evolved over the years. Today's club has approximately 55 members.

Team members compete in events under the USAPL rules. All competitors weigh in before the meet and are divided into weight classes. They compete in three different categories: squat, bench and deadlift. For each lift they are given three attempts to get the highest successful lift possible. According to team president Daniel Hernandez, "If you pick a weight that is too high initially, you run the risk of bombing out and not being able to compete any further." That's where the strategy comes into play. After your deadlift, the total (highest number of each lift) is combined to place you among the others in your weight class.

The team practices together three times a week and has become a very close-knit group. The club welcomes veteran lifters as well as those who have never competed before. We asked Daniel why he joined the team and he replied, "I joined TAMUPL because I love powerlifting and I love the people that come along with the sport. I've made some of my best friends in the sport. I also love helping people master the technical aspect of lifting and becoming good at powerlifting specifically."

Hernandez said preparing to compete takes lots of patience and a will to put the work in as you "allow your body time to build up the foundation needed to lift heavy weights for a long time and stay healthy doing so."

Josh Brown, who won the national championship in the 105kg weight class, is one of the current squad's most notable members. Arnold Delgadillo is the All-American bench press record holder, while Elma Lopez just competed at Worlds in Canada to represent Team USA.

Daniel told AI: "A goal of mine

is for the team to win another national championship at collegiate nationals. Last year, our Women's equipped team won a national title. I want to bring home another collegiate national championship!"



Rec Sports

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WOMEN'S WATER POLO

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Michael Caine once said, "Be like a duck. Calm on the surface, but always paddling like the dickens underneath." So is the life of a water polo player, as they tread water throughout the match while battling against their opponent to try to put the ball in the net.

Texas A&M's Women's Water Polo Club vice president, Hannah Kapfer, described the sport by saying, "I like to say we use a goal that looks like a soccer goal, a ball like a volleyball (much harder). We set up like in basketball and have aggression like in football."

The teams compete in an Olympic-size pool, swimming back and forth trying to score on their opponent. They are only allowed to touch, pass or shoot the ball with one hand. The players are very aggressive, and like an iceberg, over 90% is happening under the water.

About 75% of the members of the Aggie team have previous experience. Hannah joined the squad as a freshman with eight years of experience. She was nervous about playing in college but had friends on the squad that encouraged her to play. She is so

glad she did and loves how close the team is. "We are a very close team as we spend nearly every day together," she explained. "Water polo is a great place to meet your life-long friends."

The team competes against Texas, Rice, Texas State and Baylor in the Texas Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA). The conference season for the Women's team is in the spring. They travel to three tournaments to compete for seeding in the Conference Tournament that the Aggies host every year. The top team from the conference gets the opportunity

to compete in Nationals against the other top teams from each division. The Aggies have made it to Nationals the last three years.

We asked Hannah what her favorite thing about being on the squad is and she replied, "My favorite thing about being on the team is the bonds that it builds. I think what I have gained the most from women's water polo is a group of lifelong friends who are like-minded and passionate about water polo. It has given me the opportunity to continue playing in college, which is something I never thought was possible."



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Q & A

ALLY

WATT

Tell me about your experience at A&M. Has it been everything you hoped it would be?

I would definitely say it's something I would not regret, coming here. I have really developed a family here. Being away from home — being all the way from Colorado — it was easy for me to come here. It was easy for me to adapt here and to really develop here. The staff was great, having the coaches here was great. The team was like a family to me. It's something I would never forget. Being here for five years is something I would never think otherwise because these friends I will have forever. These connections I have made are forever. Having the Aggie Ring is something I'm super proud to have. Being a part of the Aggie alumni is something I'll always be super proud of.

What would you like to do after your time here at A&M?

My hope is to go pro. We'll see how that goes. I don't know if I want to play here or overseas. I would like to play soccer for as long as I can. Since it is something I have known for so long, it's kind of the only thing I've known I feel like. I really want to push that. But eventually, it's going to have to come to an end. I came to that realization probably in the last year that soccer is not forever. And it doesn't define me, but it is a huge part of me. I think it's something I want to continue to push, but at the same time I'll be excited to see what else I am able to do after soccer because I know it has prepared me for other stuff off the field as well.



Any desire to coach?

I do have a coaching minor that I graduated with in May. I do like to coach kids. I do local Hot Shots here and the Aggie Soccer Camps we do here, and I really do enjoy it, to connect with kids help with the next generation. I feel like I was really honored to be coached by some of the best when I was younger, and they have truly inspired me to be who I am now. To fill that role for somebody is something I would really want to go for because they made a huge difference for me in sports and in just my personal life. They helped to develop me. So I think it would be really cool to give back to the next generation.

What has been your favorite moment on the field as an Aggie been?

I have two big ones. First was when we won the SEC championship. I was running into the box and I see Emily on the left hand side and she just snuck back behind the goalkeepers arm and I was so happy and we couldn't stop celebrating that was just something we had been working really hard for. We had just kept being told that we were the only class that hadn't won a ring on the team. Like I know (laughs) so I really wanted to change that. I think another really big moment for me was the South Carolina game when I had that overtime goal and to see the team collectively come around me when I was really sick. I saw the fight the team had the whole game because we were not coming off on the right foot because we had come off a really bad loss earlier that week, it was really good collective team work that we had to get through that game. And seeing everyone come together — united being together again — that was a really big step for us that season.

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